

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator's)	ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Kimberly Arnold,)	PERMANENT REVOCATION
A/K/A Linda Cheryl Jones,)	
A/K/A Kimberly Ray Brown,)	
)	
Certificate 208721)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 11, 2005. On November 9, 2004, the State Board of Education summarily suspended educator certificate 208721, issued in the name of Linda Cheryl Jones to Kimberly Arnold. On November 12, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible revocation or suspension of educator certificate 208721 to Kimberly Arnold by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Arnold received the notice of her right to a hearing as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature, dated November 19, 2004. Ms. Arnold did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the letter. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to convert the summary suspension to a permanent revocation of educator certificate 208721.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On July 16, 2001, Kimberly Arnold willingly and knowingly applied for South Carolina certification as a school psychologist, presenting herself as Linda Cheryl Jones, a school psychologist licensed by the State of Tennessee. The South Carolina Division of Teacher Quality issued Ms. Arnold a certificate valid from July 1, 2001 until June 30, 2006, in the name of Linda Cheryl Jones. Ms. Arnold was arrested on October 27, 2004, by Sumter County Sheriff's Office and charged with two counts of forgery, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and fraudulent falsified or altered transcript or diploma. Ms. Arnold has been working as a school psychologist with Sumter County School District Two (District) since July 2002. Ms. Arnold has admitted to law enforcement that she is not Linda C. Jones, that she is not a school psychologist, and that she has only a high school diploma.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct ...Crime against the law of this State or the United States...and...Dishonesty.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). State Board Regulation 43-58 further defines just cause to include: “Obtaining or attempting to obtain such certificate by fraudulent means or through misrepresentation of material facts.” The State Board finds that there is just cause to permanently revoke certificate 208721, issued under the name of Linda Cheryl Jones.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester
Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 11, 2005